

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for fixing the position of a metal end cap on a filter element includes a filter support, an inductive heater, and a drive system for moving the heater relative to the filter support. Preferably, the apparatus also includes a second inductive heater. Where two heaters are used, the drive system simultaneously moves the first and second inductive heaters in substantially opposite directions, using a control shaft extending between first and second support pillars. Each end of the control shaft is threaded, and the threading on the second end is formed in an opposite direction to the threading on the first end. Each of the heaters is threadably connected to the control shaft. A motor is provided for rotating the control shaft. A method of forming a filter cartridge, using the disclosed apparatus, is another aspect of the invention.

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